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URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY



Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1946



BILSTON & SEDGLEY:
JOHN PRICE & SONS, PRINTERS.

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ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Chairman of Health Committee:
COUNCILLOR J. FELLOWS.

Medical Officer of Health:
F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:
DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON, M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:
S. CAINE, C.R.S.I.

Medical Officer's Clerk and Billeting Officer:
W. A. PEARSON.

Public Health Clerks:
MRS. F. DETHERIDGE. MISS G. WILLIAMS.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1946.

Area: 3,854 acres.

Population: 21,500.

Number of Inhabited Houses: 5,798.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £328.

Rateable Value: £83,748.

General Rate: 18/- in the £.

Birth Rate: 16.09.

Death Rate: 9.81.

Infantile Death Rate, per 1,000 Births: 31.79.

Deaths from Diarrhoea: 0.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis: 5; from other Tuberculosis
Diseases: 2.

Tuberculosis Death Rate: Pulmonary, 0.23; Non-Pulmonary, .093.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sedgley Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present my Annual Report for 1946, and such is submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 13/47.

The Report deals with

- (a) Vital Statistics as affecting the Area.
- (b) General Provision of Health Services in the Area.
- (c) Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- (d) Housing.
- (e) Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

It concludes with the Report of your Sanitary Inspector on those matters which fall within his sphere of activities in relation to safeguarding the health of the community.

The birth rate for the year shows an increase on last year, being 16.09 against 15.78, but is lower than the rate of England and Wales, which is 19.1, a considerable rise on that of 1945, when it was 16.1.

The Death Rate of 9.81 is considerably lower than that of last year, when it was 11.39, and also much lower than that of the country as a whole—11.5.

Infantile Mortality Rate indicates the number per 1,000 births of children who died before reaching the age of one year, and here the rate is 31.79 compared with the rate of England and Wales as a whole, 43. Such lower rate gives ground for satisfaction. The actual number of deaths under one year of age was 11, as against 17 last year.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 17, against 19 last year, and the number of deaths 5 against 8 last year, giving a death rate of 0.23 as against 0.38 in 1945. Such reduction one is happy to record.

The subject of health is standing out very much on the social horizon at the moment as we all know from the envisaged National Health Services which are scheduled to come into operation in 1948, but equally important with the provision of medical and surgical services when actually sick, which unfortunately we are all liable to be, is the provision against being sick.

Advances in surgical technique and recent discoveries in Medicine have brought both of those fields very much into the limelight, and rightly, too, and naturally so because it is the curative aspect that appeals to the sufferer. But that does not by one iota detract from the importance of preventive medicine, so many ailments and diseases being avoidable.

Communities owe much to the Public Health Services in the way of prevention and control over infectious diseases, but individuals can do a great deal for themselves in the way of avoiding disease or protecting themselves from it. It is therefore from this point of view that I welcome the help the Central Council for Health Education is giving in this direction for the promotion and maintenance of good health, for health is the first essential to happiness and to lives of contentment. The range of subjects, bearing on health and the ravages wrought by germs of disease, which can be presented by Films is an extensive one.

During the year a Health Education Week was undertaken, but the response of the adult public was a little disappointing. Adverse weather and dense fog no doubt affected attendances to a great extent. The series of Films shown by the Council of Health Education was most instructive and interestingly presented and certainly merited a better attendance of the adult public.

As regards progress made in the erection of new houses and in respect of building programme for the coming year I consider your Council is deserving of the highest commendation. Consideration of housing conditions forms one of the most important sections of the work of a Health Department, and a number of situations arise from time to time which can only be solved by the active co-operation of the Housing Committee with the Health Committee. This co-operation has been given throughout the year.

At intervals throughout the year further consideration was given to the problem of making the beneficent service of Home and Domestic Helps efficiently operative, but the failure of suitable women to come forward for such service frustrated all endeavours to make it a real live service. At the moment it is very much a skeleton service. Nevertheless it was possible to find appropriate helps for a few cases.

During the year, the Department lost the services of two valued and tried public servants, Mr. Pearson to retirement and Miss Mullett to another appointment. I feel it would be remiss on my part if I did not put on record appreciation of the loyal and faithful service given to your Urban District by them both.

Again I wish to express my appreciation of the help and support given me by the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committees, and to thank the local Medical practitioners for their continued co-operation.

I am glad to have this yearly opportunity of thanking your Clerk for his helpful guidance and advice on points which have arisen from time to time. I would also record my appreciation and thanks for the efficient services of your Sanitary Inspector and other members of the Public Health staff. I would especially thank the Chief Clerk of the Health Department for her willing and ungrudging personal help to me. I am also indebted to your Surveyor for his helpful co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. B. MACKENZIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1947.

VITAL STATISTICS.

			Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate.
Live Births:	....	....	346	170	176	16.09
Legitimate		....	337	167	170	
Illegitimate		....	9	3	6	

Still Births: Total, 3. Rate per 1,000 Total Births, 8.59.

			Total	M.	F.	Rate.
Deaths	....	....	211	102	109	9.81

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth:—

From sepsis, 0. Other puerperal causes, 0.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	(11)	....	....	31.79
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	(10)	....	....	29.67
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	(1)	....	....	111.11
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	....	29
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		....	....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	....	....		0

BIRTH RATES.

	SEDGLEY		England and Wales
Year	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate
1937	292	14·4	14·9
1938	321	15·8	15·1
1939	304	14·69	15·0
1940	299	14·21	14·6
1941	294	13·77	14·2
1942	331	15·7	15·8
1943	364	17·37	16·5
1944	378	17·94	17·6
1945	331	15·78	16·1
1946	346	16·09	19·1

DEATH RATES.

	SEDGLEY		England and Wales
Year	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Death Rate
1937	222	11·0	12·4
1938	221	10·9	11·6
1939	251	12·07	12·1
1940	236	11·22	14·3
1941	242	11·33	12·9
1942	232	11·0	11·6
1943	235	11·21	12·1
1944	195	9·25	11·6
1945	239	11·39	11·4
1946	211	9·81	11·5

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1946.

Causes of Death					M.	F.
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	....	....	....	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	....	....	....	—	—
3.	Scarlet fever	....	....	....	—	—
4.	Whooping cough	....	....	....	—	—
5.	Diphtheria.	....	....	....	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	....	....	....	2	3
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	....	....	....	1	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases	....	....	....	—	—
9.	Influenza	....	....	....	1	3
10.	Measles	....	....	....	—	—
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	....	....	....	—	—
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis	....	....	....	—	—
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males) and uterus (females)	....	....	....	—	—
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	....	4	2
15.	Cancer of breast	....	....	....	—	5
16.	Cancer of all other sites	....	....	....	14	4
17.	Diabetes	....	....	....	—	1
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	....	....	....	7	17
19.	Heart disease	....	....	....	22	37
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	....	....	....	4	—
21.	Bronchitis	....	....	....	13	8
22.	Pneumonia	....	....	....	4	1
23.	Other respiratory diseases	....	....	....	1	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	....	....	....	1	1
25.	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	....	....	....	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	....	....	....	—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	....	....	....	2	2
28.	Nephritis	....	....	....	3	2
29.	Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	....	....	....	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	....	....	....	—	—
31.	Premature birth	....	....	....	4	—
32.	Congenital malformations, birth injuries and infantile diseases	....	....	....	1	5
33.	Suicide	....	....	....	2	—
34.	Road Traffic accidents	....	....	....	1	—
35.	Other violent causes	....	....	....	3	3
36.	All other causes	....	....	....	12	13
Total					102	109

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1946.

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age :—

	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under one month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total Deaths under One Year
Premature Birth	3	....	1	....	4	....	....	....	....	4
Inanition	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Spina Bifida	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Cephalocele	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Anencephalus	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Congenital Heart Disease	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	1
Acute Bronchitis .....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1
	8	....	1	1	10	1	....	....	....	11

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

Year	SEDGLEY			England & Wales Rate per 1,000 Births
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	
1937	292	15	51·4	58
1938	321	17	53·0	53
1939	304	26	85·5	50
1940	299	9	30·0	55
1941	294	18	60·0	59
1942	331	12	36·2	49
1943	364	22	60·4	49
1944	378	12	31·7	46
1945	331	17	51·36	46
1946	346	11	31·79	43

There were no deaths from Diarrhoea among children under two years of age.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Infectious Diseases.

Provision for admission and treatment of such cases is made with the West Midlands Joint Isolation Hospital Board and accommodation would appear to be ample, no difficulty having been experienced in getting cases admitted.

Small Pox.

Arrangements for isolation and treatment are provided by the South Staffordshire Joint Small-Pox Hospital Board.

Tuberculosis.

Treatment is administered by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board for Tuberculosis, Dispensaries being situate at Dudley and Wolverhampton, and various Sanatoria are available.

Venereal Diseases.

Facilities for treatment are provided under the County Council scheme.

Maternity.

Under County arrangements Maternity Units are available at the Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home, Sedgley, and at Wordsley.

Midwives, Ante-Natal Clinics and Child Welfare.

The supervising and administering Authority is the County Council.

General Hospitals.

All such are situate outside the Urban District. They are the voluntary hospitals of Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham. They are easily accessible and the facilities afforded are made full use of.

Ambulance Service.

The Local Authority operates its own ambulance service for surgical, medical and accident cases. The ambulance is stationed locally. Infectious cases are dealt with by the Joint Isolation Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations and Chemical analyses are made at the respective County Laboratories. The facilities so provided are in constant use by the local medical practitioners.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

With the exception of the Goldthorn Hill area, which is supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation, the district is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

I am indebted to Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., and Mr. Brian L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., the respective Engineers-in-Chief of those undertakings for the following reports.

(a) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

- (i) " The water supplied to the Urban District of Sedgley has been satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity.
- (ii) The Sedgley district is supplied with waters from stations outside the Council's boundary. All waters from pumping stations owned by the Company are examined regularly both bacteriologically and chemically. Where treatment is installed both raw waters and treated waters are examined bacteriologically. The water supply within the Council's boundary is sampled at approximately monthly intervals at four points, namely, Sedgley Tanks, Nos. 1 and 2, Sedgley Reservoir and the Waterman's House. During the year 1946, 14 samples were taken at each of the above four points, all of which were found to be satisfactory.

The average chemical results for 1946 for the samples taken at the Waterman's House, Sedgley, are:

pH	....	....	....	....	6.9			
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	....	....	....	....	6.5	parts	per	100,000
Chloride (Cl)	....	....	....	....	2.47	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	....	....	....	....	Trace	"	"	"
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	....	....	....	....	Trace	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen	....	....	....	....	0.25	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C.)	....	....	....	....	0.012	"	"	"
Temporary Hardness	....	....	....	....	6.0	"	"	"
Permanent Hardness	....	....	....	....	4.7	"	"	"
Total Hardness	....	....	....	....	10.7	"	"	"
Iron (Fe)	....	....	....	....	0.004	"	"	"
Manganese (Mn)	....	....	....	....	Nil	"	"	"
Poisonous Metals	....	....	....	....	Nil	"	"	"
Free Cl.	....	....	....	....	Nil	"	"	"

- (iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, but are examined at intervals for lead. No lead was found in the three samples examined.

- (iv) Sterilisation of waters is carried out, when possible, at the pumping stations. This is largely precautionary. Contamination of mains following bursts or laying of new mains, and of service reservoirs following emptying, is safeguarded by chlorination on site. Special apparatus and staff are available for this purpose. These mains, reservoirs, etc., are not brought back into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
- (v) The total number of houses supplied by the Company within the Urban District at the 31st December, 1946, was 5,294. Of this number about 935 obtained their supply either from taps in yards or taps in outhouses."

(b) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.

" The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking is a mixture of waters from a number of sources of supply, and is supplied into that part of the Sedgley Urban District which lies within the water limits of this Undertaking, including Goldthorn Park area, in various proportions according to the part of the district and varying circumstances obtaining from time to time.

- (i) The supply of water to the portion of the Sedgley Urban District concerned has been satisfactory both (a) in quality and (b) in quantity.
- (ii) Bacteriological examinations are made of raw water and, where treatment is necessary, of the water going into supply and in the distribution system. The following is a table of the number of bacteriological and chemical analyses made:

(a)	The number of Bacteriological Analyses made of raw water before treatment	....	....	....	54
	The number of Chemical Analyses made of raw water before treatment	....	....	....	7
(b)	Number of Bacteriological Analyses made of water going into supply and in distribution system				284
	Number of Chemical Analyses made of water going into supply and in distribution system			....	39

The figures under Section (b) include 104 Bacteriological Analyses and two Chemical Analyses of water going into supply, where treatment was not necessary.

With regard to results of Bacteriological analyses of the 284 samples of water going into supply and in the distribution system under (b) above, 269 were found to be entirely free from presumptive *B. coli-aerogenes*, and only 14 showed presumptive *B. coli-aerogenes* in the Ministry of Health group not exceeding 1 to 2 per 100 ml., and only one sample showed presumptive *B. coli-aerogenes* in the Ministry of Health group not exceeding 3 to 10 presumptive *B. coli-aerogenes* per 100 ml.

On further examination of these samples showing *B. coli-aerogenes* for types none was found to contain any faecal coli.

With regard to the results of Chemical Analyses, reports are given on samples taken by Wolverhampton Medical Officer of Health in November, 1946, at three separate points, one at the Wergs and two in Wolverhampton. which are also representative of water supplied into that portion of the Sedgley Urban District concerned, and are typical of the results obtained of water in the distribution system.

- (iii) The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking does not have a plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) Subsequent to treatment where necessary at the supply works, there has been no known contamination of the water going into supply."
- (v) The number of dwelling houses in the Goldthorn Park area supplied direct from the mains is estimated as 741.

Sample 37/46. 19th November, 1946.

Chemical Analysis.		Results Expressed in Parts per 100,000					
Free and Saline Ammonia		0.0014
Albuminoid Ammonia		0.0048
Chlorine in Chlorides		3.9
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites		0.18
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in 4 hrs.							0.060
Total Solids dried at 100°C.		40
Appearance		Bright,	few small	particles
Hardness: Temporary		10.4
Permanent		10.8
Total		21.2
Metals		Absent
Free Chlorine		0.008
pH value		7.47

Sample W.36/46. 12th November, 1946.

Chemical Analysis.	Results Expressed in Parts per 100,000						
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0000
Chlorine in Chlorides	7.4
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	Trace
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80° F. in 4 hrs.							0.002
Total Solids dried at 100°C	42
Appearance	Bright and Clear	
Hardness: Temporary	10.8
Permanent	12.4
Total	23.2
Metals	Absent
Free Chlorine	Absent
pH value	7.44

Sample 35/46. 5th November, 1946.

Chemical Analysis.	Results Expressed in Parts per 100,000						
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0040
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0040
Chlorine in Chlorides	3.9
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	0.12
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F in 4 hrs.							0.049
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	44
Appearance	Bright,	few small	particles	
Hardness: Temporary	10.0
Permanent	11.6
Total	21.6
Metals	Absent
Free Chlorine	0.02
pH value	7.40

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Mr. W. M. Jones, B.Sc. (Eng.), Assoc. Mem. Inst. C.E., your Surveyor, has furnished me with the following report:

Sewerage.

Recently foul and surface water sewers have been laid at the Ettymore Road (South) Housing Scheme, for about 190 houses to be built thereon.

In connection with the improvement of Goldthorn Hill Road, a surface water sewer was laid from Dudding Road and along Goldthorn Hill Road.

A scheme for the foul sewerage of Catholic Lane and part of Sandyfields Road has been prepared and approved by the Ministry of Health. A tender has been accepted in the sum of £3,539 and this work will commence in the near future.

A contract is about to be let for roads and sewers on the Gibbons Hill Housing Site, Wolverhampton Road, for about 150 houses, and a similar Contract will shortly be let for similar works on the Eve Lane Housing Site (90 houses).

Sewage Disposal.

All four works have produced a reasonably satisfactory effluent. The main difficulty is in dealing with sludge from the settlement tanks. Local farmers can only be persuaded to take a small quantity, and the bulk must be disposed of by tipping. It is not easy to find a tip which would not be a source of complaint.

The inadequacy of Sludge drying beds at all the works causes infrequent removal of sludge from the tanks and this tends to upset the balance of the works by reducing the time of settlement and causing clogging of the filters from solid matter which should have settled out in the tanks.

An attempt is to be made to carry out sludge digestion at Lower Gornal which if successful would have the effect of reducing considerably the quantity of sludge to be disposed of and rendering the sludge less offensive and more suitable for application to the land.

Such measures as these are not too economical to apply in the case of four small works, scattered as they are in this District.

Experiments on the control of fly nuisance have continued at the Beacon Works during the year, and the results obtained at these and other works in the Midlands were incorporated in a paper on the subject to the Public Works Congress in London, during July. There is no doubt that dosage of the sewage with D.D.T. or gammexane, controls the flies, which breed in the filters, thereby preventing nuisance and danger to inhabitants near the Works, without killing other organisms which assist in keeping the filters clear.

Public Conveniences.

During the year a scheme was approved by the Council for a new public convenience in Gospel End Street on land at the junction with Hall Street, at an estimated cost of nearly £1,500. The Ministry of Health are not apparently too ready to permit such work to proceed at the present time, due to the shortage of building materials and labour, even though they have approved the site and the design of the building."

Sanitary Inspection.

The systematic inspection of the district has been carried out in an efficient manner. Details are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

The situation in respect of the above is dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector in his Section of the report.

His review is so complete that I have nothing to add except to comment most favourably on the attractiveness and general lay-out of the sites. The houses, prefabricated, with their up-to-date conveniences, labour saving devices and other amenities, make the less fortunate tenants of " old houses " so envious that in their desire for the same modern standard of housing they do not hesitate to add their names to the already heavy list of applicants for re-housing and it is difficult to convince them that others are living under much worse conditions and that such must be considered first.

In the allocation of houses I would, however, again press for special consideration to be given to households with tuberculosis histories and to those who have returned from Sanatoria if the curative work of such Institutions is not to be undone, and for priority allocation to those families where danger of infection, due to the presence of active cases, is increased by existing overcrowded conditions.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN SEDGLEY U.D.
DURING 1946.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Article	Samples taken	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	24	24	—
General Foods	7	7	—
	31	31	—

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

Designation	No. of Samples submitted	Cleanliness		Phosphatase		Contain'g Tubercle Bacilli
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass	Fail	
Tuberculin Tested	3	3	—	—	—	—
T.T. (Pasteurised)	1*	1	—	1	—	—
Pasteurised	1*	1	—	1	—	—
Sterilised	1*	1	—	1	—	—
Undesignated	33*(2)	30	3	—	—	—

* No Biological Test.

FOOD PREMISES.

The Sanitary Inspector reports fully on this subject.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The prevalence of notifiable diseases during the year shows a decrease on last year, the number of notifications being 112 against 321 last year.

Measles.

Twelve cases were notified. There were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

Cases totalled 11, of which six cases were admitted to Hospital, home nursing being possible in all other instances. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

There were 39 cases against 11 last year. One case was admitted to Hospital.

Diphtheria.

There were five cases against 16 last year. Four cases were admitted to Hospital. There were no deaths.

Supplies of Diphtheria Anti-toxin are always available on application to the Health Department.

Typhoid.

Two cases occurred, one in an adult who had partaken of Ice-Cream while on a visit to Aberystwyth, the other an isolated case, also an adult, no source of infection being traceable. Both cases were admitted to Hospital. There were no deaths.

The total admissions for all infectious diseases to Hospital were 18.

Moxley, 14.	Scarlet Fever	....	....	5
	Diphtheria	....	....	4
	Tonsilitis	....	....	2
	Whooping Cough	....	....	1
	Typhoid	....	....	1
Stallings Lane, 1.	Influenza	....	....	1
	Scarlet Fever	....	....	1
Royal Hospital, 2.	Typhoid	....	....	1
	Meningitis	....	....	1
Guest Hospital, 1.	Pneumonia	....	....	1

The incidence of other infectious diseases is shown in appended table.

AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (excluding Tuberculosis) notified in 1946.

DISEASE.	At all ages		Under 1 year of age	1 year & under 2 years	2 years & under 3 years	3 years & under 4 years	4 years & under 5 years	5 years to 10 years	10 years to 15 years	15 years to 25 years	25 years to 45 years	45 years to 65 years	65 years and over
	M	F											
Scarlet Fever	3	8	—	1	—	1	—	5	4	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	25	10	—	—	1	2	—	4	4	1	11	9	3
Erysipelas	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	2
Whooping Cough	21	18	2	6	3	5	9	12	2	—	—	—	—
Measles	8	4	—	2	1	1	3	4	1	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	66	46	2	10	5	9	12	28	13	2	15	11	5

Swabs and Specimens submitted to the County Laboratory:—

Nose and Throat	....	....	....	....	....	20
of which 2 showed Morphological Diphtheria Bacilli.						
Sputum Tests for Tubercle Bacilli	....	....	....	....	....	53
of which 8 were positive.						
Pleural Effusion	....	....	....	....	....	1
Faeces Tests	....	....	....	....	....	2
Blood Tests	....	....	....	....	....	2

General Measures.

Surveillance of Small-pox contacts on disembarkation from ships which had had a case on board during the voyage, and on return to their homes.

School notifications of Infectious Disease are carefully scrutinised and made prompt use of for the purpose of guidance and location.

Schools are disinfected when considered desirable. The opening wide of windows to ensure a free circulation of fresh air is also insisted upon during week-ends and holiday periods.

Terminal disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is also carried out in all cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Tuberculosis, Cancer and other cases of long standing disease.

Disinfection is by means of formaldehyde lamps and disinfectant fluid.

Scabies.

The prevalence of this disease would appear to be diminishing.

The treatment centre situate at Burton House, with a staff of three male and two female attendants, continues to render an essential service.

It is found that persons affected are more ready to present themselves for treatment than in previous years.

There has been no occasion to exercise statutory powers.

The following is a summary of the cases treated.

			Persons.	Treatments.
Children under 5	....	....	10	41
Children of School Age	....	....	25	106
Adults	....	....	56	262
			<hr/> 91	<hr/> 409

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 280 children received protective treatment.

Number of Children who have completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946.

Age at 31.12.46	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	TOTAL
i.e., Born in year	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1937 to 1941	1932 to 1936	Under 15
Number immunised	40	152	204	242	249	1147	1304	3338
Estimated mid-year child population, 1946	1710						2940	4650

This would indicate that 52% of children under 5 years of age have received protective treatment and 83% of children over 5 years and under 15 years of age.

In terms of total child population under 15 years of age, this would mean that 72% have received protective treatment. This percentage may possibly be slightly higher if those children who have been done by their own doctor—under private arrangement—are taken into account, but no accurate statistical figures in this respect for the period under review are available.

Vaccination.

It is estimated that only about 25% of school children have been vaccinated in infancy.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases notified for the year was 17 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary as against 19 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary in 1945.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 9 years	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
10 to 14 years	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
15 to 19 years	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	1
20 to 24 years	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
25 to 34 years	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 to 44 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 54 years	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 to 64 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	9	8	—	4	2	3	1	1

YEARLY FIGURES FOR THE LAST DECADE.

Year	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
1937	13	6	6	1
1938	11	7	7	4
1939	25	2	14	3
1940	16	3	12	1
1941	23	7	16	6
1942	32	9	14	6
1943	23	—	14	—
1944	18	4	10	2
1945	19	4	8	6
1946	17	4	5	2

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The year 1946 was marked by our efforts to recover from the effects of the partial stagnation during the war. From the public health aspect, of course, every effort had been made to keep our standards intact. Nevertheless, some fields had suffered rather badly, particularly housing. It was with a sigh of relief that we felt we could now start to make good the deficiencies of those years, and if our efforts have not been as successful as we had hoped, the fault is not ours.

In the following pages, I have dealt separately with the main sections of our work. It should be noted, however, that the multiplicity of duties in a Health Department cannot all be neatly divided into sections, and that practically every day something arises which takes up time and energy, from interviewing commercial travellers to digging your car out of a snow drift. The work described in the report constitutes only the more important sections of our duties.

I wish here to thank all members of the staff for their loyalty and their willing co-operation at all times, and to the men in the Cleansing Department I also tender my sincere thanks for their untiring efforts at work which can be very unpleasant at times.

HOUSING.

In all its aspects, housing constitutes the main section of our work, and is undoubtedly our biggest headache.

During the year, 50 prefabricated aluminium bungalows were erected on a site in Lower Gornal. It seemed marvellous to be able to let 50 houses at one go, after the war years' average of half a dozen per annum. Some thought that we would manage thereby to rehouse all our worst cases and the others wouldn't mind waiting a little longer. But what a hope! With a list of over a thousand applicants, 50 houses was a mere bagatelle. According to many of the public, the wrong people got the houses. With a regularity that is becoming definitely monotonous, applicants tell us that theirs is the worst case in the district. They know, because no one else could possibly be living under such awful conditions.

Actually, of course, no one outside the department can possibly know all the cases and assess their relative merits. The Sedgley Council realises this fully, and has delegated its power of letting houses to myself and the Collector. This system has worked successfully for several years.

In order to assess the relative merits of the many cases, a points system was devised in the department and received the

approval of the Housing Committee. From time to time slight amendments in the system have been made in the light of circumstances, but substantially it is the same as when we devised it. I submit here a copy of the scheme.

Points System.

1. Living in house with Demolition Order or Closing Order on same	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
2. If house is not condemned but in a very bad insanitary condition	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
3. Overcrowding (based on the number of bedrooms available and the separation of sexes above the age of ten years)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
4. Overcrowding according to Housing Act, 1936	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
5. Very bad overcrowding, an additional	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
6. In lodgings	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
7. In lodgings and married for over five years, an additional	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

Points can also be awarded under the following heads only in those cases which are admitted for consideration under any of the above heads.

8. For each child of the applicant under the age of ten years	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
9. Ex-service man or woman	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
10. Ex-service man or woman demanding special consideration by reason of disability or some other approved reason	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
11. War widow	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
12. Medical Reasons (subject to the Medical Officer of Health being satisfied that such house accommodation is necessary for the satisfactory treatment of the case)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
13. Applicant or spouse resident or normally resident in the district for a period of at least twelve months	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

Service Houses, for Employees will be allocated at the discretion of the Council.

Special consideration to be given to medical cases where, even though none of the required qualifications under items 1 to 7 are present, it is desirable that a house should be allocated to the case.

The Committee decided that the letting of Council houses, both permanent and temporary, should be entrusted to Mr. Ratcliffe and Mr. Robertson, subject to the following conditions.

1. That in deciding upon the priority of the applicants they should use the Points System above enumerated.

2. That where the points awarded are equal, and there are a larger number of applicants than the number of houses available, the applicants should be dealt with in the following order of priority, namely—
 - (a) Medical reasons.
 - (b) Miners.
 - (c) Overcrowding.
 - (d) Condition of property.
3. That in difficult cases the two officers should consult with the Chairman of the Housing Committee and take his instructions thereon.
4. That the two Officers should present to each meeting of the Housing Committee a report showing the houses let since the last meeting, the names and addresses of the persons to whom the houses have been allocated, the points awarded, and the reasons why the points were awarded.

Addenda.

- (1) No person shall be counted for the overcrowding points until they have been resident at any particular address for at least 12 months.
- (2) Applicants living just over the Council's boundary may receive the resident point, if they work in the district, or if they were local residents until their marriage.

Although the points system was devised as simply as possible, it is still beyond many people and it has not been broadcast, both on that account and in order to prevent people deliberately manufacturing conditions in order to obtain points.

In addition to the 50 prefabricated houses, six other Council houses became empty during the year, making a total of 56 new lettings.

The question of the house unfit for habitation was a disturbing one throughout the year. One had realised during the war that little could be done in this direction, but now that we had peace, it was with rather a feeling of frustration that we listened to the complaints of the people unfortunately living in these abominable places. The point was discussed several times—what is the worse, to live in a building unfit for habitation or in lodgings in a good house? Of course, no satisfactory answer could be found as it depends mainly on the human element in each case.

However, three houses had to be dealt with during the year. On the 2nd October a demolition order was made on 4, Burton Road, on account of the really appalling conditions. And on the

4th December an undertaking not to re-let was accepted from the owner of 117 and 118, Grosvenor Road, where the houses were in a dangerous condition due to mining subsidence.

Repairs to property had, of course, been carried out more or less throughout the war years, perhaps rather less than more. But attempts were made during 1946 to have essential repairs executed more speedily. The long notices of pre-war years under the Housing Act were still out of the question, and only remedy of defects of a serious nature was asked for. The difficulties were stupendous. Some landlords are past masters in the art of procrastination. Time limits had to be extended considerably owing to the difficult conditions in the building trade, but owners seldom thought of placing an order for work to be done until the department had reached the limit of its patience. After that the builder was always blamed by the unfortunate owner. Several months would pass before he could find time to do the work, and perhaps even then some material would be lacking or the weather would be unsuitable. The legal steps for enforcing repairs are equally slow in practice, and it has been found that if a notice is complied with within twelve months of its first service, we are lucky. Some have dragged on for two or three years. If this may appear extraordinary, I would ask you to remember the skill with which some people can spin a yarn, and the natural sympathy of Local Authorities and Magistrates with owners of property in these difficult times. Unfortunately, the public do not understand the difficulties and expect repairs to be executed in a matter of days or weeks.

The cost of repairs to-day is a matter of the first importance. Most property has been neglected so much in recent years that substantial repairs are now necessary. In many cases the requisite cost is completely beyond the means of the owners. In this district most of the property is owned by residents who have used their savings to buy small houses as an investment for their old age, or for their families. This sort of investment was a very good one in the past, but it is so no longer. The profit has been drained from this type of property over the last 50 to 100 years and to-day, apart from the fact that it is providing a roof for some family, it is actually worthless. We have many hundreds of houses in this category, and they will constitute a very difficult problem in the near future.

PRIVIES.

The worst feature of the district to my mind is the large number of privy middens still existing. Of course, the area is very scattered and rural in part and sewerage the whole area an extremely difficult and costly task. The hilly nature of many

parts and the mining subsidence that is taking place in a number of places add to the difficulties.

During the war years several attempts had been made to clear away these objectionable conveniences, but circumstances have interrupted the work. In 1946, however, we started once again on this task.

Where the sewer was available, a notice to convert to a water closet was served, although the number of such houses was relatively small. In the majority of cases we have asked for chemical closets which will be emptied by the department. Where the owner desires it, a water closet with drainage to a cesspool is permitted, and indeed encouraged. We should much prefer water closets in all houses, but the cost is again a prohibitive factor in many cases.

At the end of the year very little could actually be shown in the way of results, but the ball had been set rolling and the next annual report should have more definite information on the success or otherwise of our efforts.

FOOD PREMISES.

There are twenty farms in the area where milk is produced. Some of these are in excellent condition and well kept, the others are not so good. In a few instances warnings have had to be given to the farmers concerned, the general excuse being shortage of labour. In a small farm, where milk production is only one of many activities, the cleanliness of cows and cowsheds is apt to be neglected at certain times when other work of a more pressing nature intervenes. The only real solution is for milk production to become the main business of the farm, in other words, in specialisation.

There are 13 bakehouses in the district and these are all well maintained. No trouble of any kind was experienced here during the year.

The 17 fried fish shops in the area are also in good condition and were kept very clean throughout the year. All of them have modern and satisfactory stoves.

The ice cream premises received a great deal of attention during the year, and the result is that the number of shops and other places selling ice cream has been drastically reduced. Most of this reduction was done voluntarily, the people concerned deciding to give up selling rather than "put up with the bother," as they expressed it. At present only 17 shops are licensed. Two of these make the ice cream in the premises, and a cold mix is the method used. In the other 15 cases, the ice cream is purchased ready made from large manufacturers and is sold as received.

Premises where the manufacturing of food takes place are few in number, ten in all. These are all small kitchens attached to butchers' shops. While, generally speaking, they cannot all be described as completely satisfactory, no serious cause for complaint was found during the year. In two cases, the amount of work done is more extensive than in the others, and in one of the cases, new premises are in progress of being provided.

The shops in the area are in some respects unsatisfactory. While there are some excellent premises, there are far too many of the other kind. A town is often judged by strangers through the appearance of its shops, and a brightening up of their premises would not only improve the look of the district, but would attract more customers. Situated as we are between Wolverhampton and Dudley, we have comparatively few shops, but what we have need not be dingy or untidy. The most apparent cause of the unsatisfactory appearance of some of our shops is the lack of accommodation. There are far too many front rooms of houses being used for this purpose and, in some cases, the running of the business is only a side line in order to supplement some other source of income.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Only one slaughterhouse is at present in use in the district—a small bacon factory, where 747 pigs were inspected during the year.

In addition to these, 73 cottagers' pigs were inspected at various premises throughout the district.

From the total of 820 pigs inspected, 9 cwts. 1 qr. 8 lbs. of meat was condemned, details given below.

Affected with Tuberculosis.

Heads	55
Plucks	9

Affected with other diseases.

Natural death	1 carcass.
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Portions of organs affected with various minor diseases are not included in the above figures.

The percentage of pigs found affected with tuberculosis was 6.7 per cent.

In addition to the above, foodstuffs of all kinds were examined in shops, and the quantities detailed below were certified unfit for human consumption.

Tea	....	....	....	....	100	lbs.
Butter	....	....	....	....	28	lbs.
Cheese	....	....	....	....	45 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Bacon	....	....	....	....	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Eggs	....	....	....	....	143	
Meat	....	....	....	....	12	tins

Fish	....	....	....	....	....	42	tins
Milk	....	....	....	....	....	146	tins
Soup	....	....	....	....	....	39	tins
Beans	....	....	....	....	....	27	tins
Peas	....	....	....	....	....	14	tins
Jam	....	....	....	....	....	1	tin
Syrup	....	....	....	....	....	1	tin
Tomatoes	....	....	....	....	....	11	tins
Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	30	tins

INSPECTIONS.

During the year, inspections to premises of various kinds numbered 2,534. In addition, 654 re-inspections were made.

The types of inspections are listed in the table below.

Ambulance	....	....	....	....	....	46
Ashbins	....	....	....	....	....	37
Ashpits	....	....	....	....	....	5
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	41
Billeting	....	....	....	....	....	7
Cesspools	....	....	....	....	....	21
Cottagers' Pigs	....	....	....	....	....	66
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	19
Dairies and Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	....	129
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	40
Food Premises	....	....	....	....	....	43
Factories	....	....	....	....	....	11
General Nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	10
Houses under P.H.A.	....	....	....	....	....	247
Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	28
Houses Fumigated	....	....	....	....	....	44
Ice Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	....	66
Infectious Disease	....	....	....	....	....	92
Interviews	....	....	....	....	....	63
Letting of Council Houses	....	....	....	....	....	232
Licensed Premises	....	....	....	....	....	9
Meat Shops	....	....	....	....	....	6
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	7
Overcrowding	....	....	....	....	....	4
Public Cleansing	....	....	....	....	....	885
Piggeries	....	....	....	....	....	4
Privies	....	....	....	....	....	98
Re-inspections	....	....	....	....	....	654
Rats and Mice Destruction	....	....	....	....	....	87
Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	....	....	81
Salvage	....	....	....	....	....	96
Tents, Vans, Sheds	....	....	....	....	....	6
War Emergencies, A.R.P	....	....	....	....	....	4

NOTICES.

The number of informal notices served during the year was 298. Of this number, and those outstanding from the previous year, 289 were complied with during the year.

It was necessary to serve 53 statutory notices during the year and all of these were complied with.

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out in the district as a result of the above notices.

Accumulations removed	....	....	....	9
Ashbins provided	....	....	....	120
Burst pipes repaired	....	....	....	6
Ceilings repaired or renewed	....	....	....	23
Ceilings limewashed	....	....	....	9
Chimney Stacks repaired	....	....	....	6
Cowsheds repaired	....	....	....	1
Dirty premises cleaned	....	....	....	1
Doors renewed	....	....	....	5
Doors repaired	....	....	....	15
Drainage provided	....	....	....	2
Drainage cleared	....	....	....	10
Firegrates repaired	....	....	....	18
Floors repaired	....	....	....	21
Hot water system repaired	....	....	....	1
House roofs repaired	....	....	....	62
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	6
New wash-house provided	....	....	....	1
Plasterwork repaired	....	....	....	28
Privies converted to W.C.'s	....	....	....	10
Privies converted to Ch. Cl.'s	....	....	....	2
Rats and Mice destruction	....	....	....	5
Sink waste pipes repaired	....	....	....	11
Sinks provided	....	....	....	5
Spouting repaired	....	....	....	15
Stair treads repaired	....	....	....	7
Walls pointed	....	....	....	8
Walls limewashed	....	....	....	9
Washing Boilers repaired or renewed	....	....	....	18
Water supply re-introduced	....	....	....	8
W.C.'s cleansed	....	....	....	2
W.C.'s repaired	....	....	....	3
W.C. new pans provided	....	....	....	10
W.C. cisterns repaired	....	....	....	18

W.C. provided	....	....	....	....	1
Windows repaired	....	....	....	....	32
Windows provided	....	....	....	....	7
Yards cleansed	....	....	....	....	3
Yard paving relaid	....	....	....	....	6

CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

The year 1946 was rather a good year as far as refuse removal and disposal were concerned. There were no serious breakdowns with the vehicles and the arrival of a new S.D. Freighter in November helped us considerably. We have now three S.D. Freighters, a Dennis gully and cesspool emptier, and hire a horse and cart for ashpit emptying. The weather was fairly kind, and there were no heavy falls of snow to interrupt our work.

The question of labour also remained satisfactory. We have a number of men who have been with us for many years, and no difficulty was experienced in obtaining new men whenever it became necessary. I am certain that the reason for this lies in the satisfactory conditions under which the men work. In the long run it pays a local authority to have a staff that is contented and is experienced in their work.

Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to return to our pre-war weekly clearance of dust bins. The reason for this lies in the increase in the quantity of refuse to be removed. The population has increased and towards the end of the year new houses slowly began to be occupied. More important, however, was the increase in the quantity of refuse due to the poor quality of fuel being burnt. No doubt we could continue a weekly clearance if only we could once reach that position, but that is the difficulty. During the year the times between emptying of dustbins varied from 10 to 14 days. With all putrescible material supposedly kept out of the bins, no serious objection should be taken to this. But this is a mining district and some houses seem to have more coal than they know what to do with. In these cases the bins are overflowing at the end of a week.

The shortage of dustbins causes many delays. Where defective bins cannot be replaced, considerable time is wasted shovelling the refuse up from the ground. The local authority buys bins in bulk for re-sale to owners, but we have never been able to get all the bins we need to carry out replacements.

All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at one site in Holloway Street and no difficulty or trouble was experienced there during the year.

SALVAGE.

There was a further decline in the salvage recovered during the year, apart from a slight increase in the kitchen waste collection. The main reason for this was undoubtedly the declining interest shown by the public. It may be that we should try to stimulate that interest, and we do our best, but it is far from easy. After all, we are the servants of the public, and are here to carry out their wishes. Whether we collect salvage or not causes them no concern, but if their dustbins are not emptied, it is a very different matter. Every effort is certainly being made to collect as much salvage as possible, but only if it does not interfere with the work of refuse collection.

I append a table showing the tonnage of materials salvaged during the past seven years.

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Kitchen Waste	8	116	222	194	181	167	172
Paper	90	106	127	92	68	61	46
Rags	2	5	6	6	5	5	2
Jars	5	10	14	16	9	6	7
Bottles	5	8	10	7	5	6	4
Metal	17	10	14	13	8	7	6
Bones	5	5	4	4	5	3	2
Cullett	12	29	26	33	24	9	2
Tins	39	65	75	41	—	25	—
Rubber	—	—	3	2	2	—	—
	<hr/> 183	<hr/> 354	<hr/> 501	<hr/> 408	<hr/> 307	<hr/> 289	<hr/> 241

The prices received for the above-mentioned materials were:—

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Kitchen Waste	35	158	371	311	285	264	309
Paper	352	432	725	589	437	395	306
Rags	9	20	69	97	91	73	35
Jars	16	28	52	70	38	28	31
Bottles	16	32	43	38	32	38	21
Metal	34	30	43	39	20	21	15
Bones	15	18	12	18	23	15	11
Cullett	11	25	23	33	24	9	2
Tins	35	64	92	41	—	23	—
Rubber	—	—	4	6	2	—	—
	<hr/> £527	<hr/> £807	<hr/> £1434	<hr/> £1242	<hr/> £952	<hr/> £866	<hr/> £730

VERMIN AND PESTS.

Work under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act was carried out energetically during the year. A full time operator was employed, and a very considerable reduction achieved in the rat population. The position now is that the remaining rats are much fewer in number and consequently more difficult to deal with. Complaints of rat infestation are very rare, and when they do arise refer to some straggler which has been seen wandering across the bottom of a garden. There is now hardly sufficient work to employ the operator full time, so that he now carries out other duties along with his rat work. This makes the satisfactory completion of the forms required by the Ministry of Food extremely difficult if not impossible. Why on earth cannot the whole matter of returns and claims be simplified? Surely all that is necessary is to know that we are doing the work, in a similar manner to the Ministry of Health's requirements on sanitary matters of much greater importance. And instead of four different percentage grants for different kinds of infestation control, why not one definite figure for all rat work?

With regard to the control of other pests, our main source of trouble was with cockroaches, and during the summer months, with ants. These were fairly satisfactorily dealt with, and in no case was there an infestation of a serious nature. Once again I have to report that no bugs were discovered anywhere in the district during the year.

DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

